intended liberalisation in agricultural trade had not been achieved in the multilateral negotiation leading to Uruguay Round Agreement to reduce agricultural tariffs imposed by developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The World Bank's research paper entitled "Agricultural Trade Liberalisation in the Uruguay Round: One step Forward, One Step Back?" concludes that while there was significant reform in the rules, particularly the conversion of non-tariff barriers into tariffs and the reduction and binding of all tariffs, the extent of liberalisation that will be achieved will be significantly less than previously expected and that much needs to be done in future rounds of multilateral trade negotiations in order to achieve more substantial and real reductions in agricultural protection. The conclusion is not at variance with the objectives of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture as stated in the Preamble. The Preamble to the Agreement states that Members decided to establish a basis for initiating a process of reform of trade in agriculture with the long-term objective of establishing a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.

The research paper is written by Mr. Merlinda D. Ingco from the International Trade Division of the World Bank. It is clearly stated in the paper that the views expressed therein are those of the author and should not be attributed to the World Bank or to its affiliated organisations.

Guidelines Governing the M.Ps.' Local Area Development Scheme

18. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the M.Ps. are required to follow the guidelines governing the M.Ps.' Local Area Development Scheme;.

(b) whether Government's attention has since been drawn to a news-item published in the 'Statesman' (Calcutta edition) in the first week of July, regarding the utilisation of this fund; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Information has been called for from the State Government of West Bengal about the news item. Necessary appropriate action will be considered on receipt of the same.

Foodgrains Stock Available for Distribution through PDS

19. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of foodgrains available for distribution through PDS;

(b) whether it is a fact that some PDS consumers opt for open market instead of PDS due to poor quality of foodgrains in the PDS;

(c) if so, how much foodgrains stock remains unpurchased due to this shift of consumers from the ration shops;

(d) the persons responsible for poor quality of foodgrains for PDS as farmers sell them in good quality; and

(e) steps taken by Govenment to improve the quality of foodgrains supplied through PDS?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as «n 1.7.95 was nearly at 35.6 million tons comprising 16.4 million tons of Rice and 19.2 million tons of wheat.

(b) to (e) Central Government issues only good quality foodgrains of 'A' & 'B' category free from insect infestation and conforming to Prevention of Food Adulteration (P.F.A.) standards, to State Governments or their nominess for the Public Distribution System (PDS). The lifting and offtake of foodgrains during the last 3 years were as under:—

(in million M. Ts.)

	Allocation	Offtake
1992-93	20.28	16.39
1993-94	21.59	14.47
1994-95	23.69	12.54

In a vast operation such as the PDS, involving millions of tonnes of foodgrains and more than four lakh Fair Price Shops, some shortcomings, here and there, cannot be ruled out. Central Government has instructed the Food Corporation of India to permit State Governments and their nominees to inspect every lot before accepting the stocks. State Governments have the right to reject the stocks not comforming to the prescribed quality standards. Central Government has also advised State Govemment/UT Administrations to take stringent action against persons indulging in malpractices in the PDS.

However, the reduction in offtake of foodgrains from the PDS during the past two years is mainly attributable to easy availability or rice and wheat in the open market at prices not very different from the end retail prices through PDS, in most parts of the country.

Identification of Export Growth Centres

20. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified export growth centres for facilitating exports;

(b) if so, locations and details of their vorking and sectors for export;

(c) whether Government are also considering giving them financial aid to cater to needs of small scale exporters; if so, whether any consultative mechanism for interface between banks and SSIs is being envisaged; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Commerce have identified 23 centres in different States/Union Territories which could be recommended under a proposed Export Intensive Area Scheme.

(b) Details arc given in the statement *(see below).*

(c) and (d) There is no proposal for direct financial aid" to cater to the needs of small scale exports under the proposed scheme.

Statement

EXPORT INTENSIVE AREA SUB-PLAN SCHEME

CENTRES IDENTIFIED UNDER THIS SCHEME

I.	Timppur	Tamilnadu	Knitwear *A.* hosiery
2.	Moradabad	Uttar Pradesh	Brassware Handicrafts
3.	Ludhiana	Punjab	Heavy machinery. Hosiery
4.	Sural	Gujarat	Diamonds Jewellery
5.	Panipat	Harvana	Handlooms
6.	Alleppcy	Kerala	Coir
7.	Jallandhar	Punjab	Sport Goods
8.	Ranipct/Ambur	Tamilnadu	Leather
9.	Nagpur	Maharashtra	Handtools
10.	Vishakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	Marine products
11.	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	Sports Goods